The first Retiree Drug Subsidy (RDS) Center National Conference is being held in Dallas, Texas, July 12 through July 13, 2005. In addition to an overview of the RDS program, this two-day conference will be structured to give plan sponsors specific operational information and assistance they will need to participate in the RDS program.

NOTE: <u>The draft agenda for the conference</u> is available on the Homepage of the RDS Website at http://rds.cms.hhs.gov in the Bulletin Board box, as well on the Events page by clicking on "RDS National Conference" in the July events calendar.

This free conference is expected to begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at approximately 5:00 p.m. each day. To register for the conference click on the link underlined above, or go to http://rds.cms.hhs.gov, go to the Events page and clicking on "RDS National Conference" in the July events calendar.

Additional Information The conference will be held at: Wyndham Anatole 2201 Stemmons Freeway

Dallas TX 75207

Telephone: (214) 748-1200

Web site: http://www.wyndham.com/hotels/DFWAN/main.wnt PLEASE NOTE: Special

room rates at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel will expire on July 8, 2005. REGISTER

TODAY!!

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Retiree Drug Subsidy Program

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The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently published the final regulations for Title I and Title II of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA). Title I contains the provisions governing the special retiree drug subsidies and other options that were designed to encourage employers and unions to continue providing high quality prescription drug coverage to their retirees.

It is the goal of CMS to give employers and unions a comprehensive set of options to help them continue to provide high-quality prescription drug coverage. One method is through a retiree drug subsidy that is flexible enough to enable employers and unions to obtain the subsidy without disrupting their current coverage. To meet this goal, this web site serves as a comprehensive resource center for all informational and operational needs for plan sponsors to become a participant in the Retiree Drug Subsidy (RDS) Program. On this web site, many tools and resources are available to provide you with everything from general information about the RDS Program to specific instructions and assistance during the application period and afterward.

Together, with the full cooperation and involvement of our partners and plan sponsors who sign up to participate in the RDS Program, we can continue to make positive advancements towards providing access to prescription drugs, dependable retiree coverage, and better coverage options for millions of Americans.

Bulletin Board

Don't forget to register for the RDS National Conference. Registration is on the events page.

PLEASE NOTE: The special RDS Conference hotel room rate of \$129 single and \$154 double will expire on June 27, 2005, so register soon!

<u>Draft Agenda of the RDS National Conference</u> (pdf, KB)

Download and print the RDS Center Teleconference materials (** pdf, 104 KB)

Federal Register Notice of RDS Application Form Comment Period (*pdf, 52 KB)

RDS Application Form and Supporting Documents for Comment by July 3, 2005 (pdf, 384 KB)

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